

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Corn Borer Campaign Under Way

The Department of Agriculture, in an announcement relative to the corn borer campaign, which began March 15, states that the Department Bureau of Entomology will have direct supervision and conduct of the work, with W. H. Larrimer in administrative charge in Washington. L. H. Worthley, in charge of corn borer control work for the Bureau of Entomology for the past eight years, will head the field organization with headquarters at Toledo, Ohio. The field organization will consist of five major divisions: (1) General operation, (2) regulatory, (3) engineering, (4) education, and (5) information.

The division of general operation, under the supervision of Mr. Worthley, will include sections to handle supplies and equipment and all fiscal and accounting matters. The regulatory division, which, also, will be under the direct supervision of Mr. Worthley, will carry out the program for the inspection and certification of infested farms and the compulsory clean-up.

The territory will be divided for regulatory work with one district comprising Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan in charge of E. G. Brewer, at Cleveland, Ohio, and a second district, comprising New York and Pennsylvania, in charge of H. N. Bartley, at Erie, Pa.

The engineering division will be in charge of the inspection of machinery used in the campaign, the instruction of operators, the conditioning and operation of the machinery in the field, and like matters. G. E. Farrell and Reuben Brigham of the Department Extension Service, have been designated by the Secretary of Agriculture to be in charge of education and information divisions, respectively.

The following are the counties in which the clean-up will be conducted:

Indiana: DeKalb and Steuben Counties, and selected townships in Allen, LaGrange, Noble and Whitney Counties.

Michigan: Bay, Branch, Calhoun, Genesee, Hillsdale, Ing-ham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Sanilac, Saginaw, Shiawasee, St. Clair, Tuscola, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties, and selected townships in Kalamazoo and St. Joseph Counties.

Ohio: Ashland, Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Geauga, Hancock, Harrison, Henry, Huron, Jefferson, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Mahoning, Medina, Ottawa, Paulding, Portage, Putnam, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, Summit, Trumbull, Wayne, Williams, Wood and Wyandot and selected townships in Allen, Hardin, Holmes, Knox, Marion, Morrow, Tuscarawas, and Van Wert Counties.

Pennsylvania: Beaver, Butler, Crawford, Erie, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties.

New York: Selected townships in Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara Counties.

The first step to be taken in the campaign will be to notify farmers of the necessary measures which they must take according to the regulations adopted. It is expected that individual farmers voluntarily cooperating in the clean-up will take the necessary measures by May 1. Following May 1, all infested farms will be inspected. If reported as meeting all requirements as to control measures, the individual farmer will be compensated for extra work as provided by the regulations.

Where the regulations have not been complied with, either intentionally or unintentionally, the Federal forces under the authority of the State Department of Agriculture will conduct the necessary clean-up. The farm cost of such enforced clean-up will be charged to the individuals on whose farms the work is done and will be collected on the same basis as taxes by the State authorities.

Large Increase in California Spring Pea Acreage

A large increase in acreage of spring peas in California is indicated by a report issued March 7 by the California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service. In 1926 the acreage was 12,150, and this year it is 23,700 acres. The report states that the condition of spring peas in all sections of the State is very good.

Publications of Interest to Growers of Canners' Crops

Responses of the sour cherry to fertilizers and to pruning in the Hudson River valley are reported upon by H. B. Tukey in Bulletin No. 541 of the New York State Agricultural Station at Geneva. He finds that the average moderately vigorous sour cherry orchard may be expected to respond to applications of nitrogenous fertilizers even when kept clean cultivated and sown to a cover crop. There is no evidence of benefit from either phosphorus or potassium, alone or in combination.

Strawberry culture in western United States is discussed by George M. Darrow in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1027 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The bulletin, which contains many illustrations, describes the methods employed in the more important commercial strawberry-growing districts, and presents detailed information respecting soils and their preparation, training systems, propagation, planting, culture, the leading varieties, harvesting and shipping.

The relation of seasonal factors to quality in sweet corn, an article by C. A. Magoon and C. W. Culpepper, originally appearing in the Journal of Agricultural Research, has been reprinted in pamphlet form. As a result of experiments conducted by the writers it was found that seasonal factors, through their influences on the rate of development and maturing of sweet corn, are important in determining the quality of the canned product. The bulletin presents, in detail, the results of the experimental work.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 998 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, by George M. Darrow, gives directions for planting, training and pruning the logan blackberry and related varieties. This illustrated pamphlet of 24 pages can be obtained upon application to the Division of Publications of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in Washington.

Experiments in handling sweet clover, with reference to the accumulation and conservation of nitrates in the soil, is the subject of Bulletin No. 285 of the University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana. The bulletin, which was prepared by Albert L. Whiting and Thomas E. Richmond, presents a comparison of fall-plowed and spring-plowed sweet clover for nitrate production, and gives data on the nitrification of sweet clover, spring-plowed and summer-plowed, at different dates; also on the winter loss of nitrate. The data were obtained from observations on a number of soil experiment fields in Illinois.

Imports of Canned Tomato Products

Imports of canned tomatoes in January totaled 9,296,877 pounds valued at \$494,207, and of canned tomato paste 1,445,927 pounds valued at \$132,515.

Employment in Manufacturing Industries

Employment in manufacturing industries increased 1.8 per cent in February, as compared with January, and pay-roll totals increased 6.1 per cent, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. These increases more than overcame the moderately large decreases in both items which occurred in January, due to inventory taking and repairs, and also the small decrease in employment reported in December. However, both employment and pay-roll totals were lower in February than they were a year ago.

Wholesale Prices in February

Continued recession of wholesale prices of commodities is shown for February by information collected in representative markets by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's weighted index number, which includes 404 commodities or price series, registered 146.4 for February compared with 146.9 for January, a decline of one-third of one per cent. Compared with February, 1926, with an index number of 155.0, there was a decrease of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

British Canned Food Imports

A report from the American trade commissioner at London on British canned food imports in 1926 states that while the trade as a whole was 12 per cent below that of 1925 there were striking increases in the imports of fruit salad, loganberries and grapefruit. Fruit salad gained 73 per cent, loganberries 46 per cent, and grapefruit more than 400 per cent.

Easy Money Days Are Passing

A young man eating canned peas bit on a little stone and forthwith was somewhat pained and exceedingly angry. So he sat him down, wrote the canner and demanded \$2.50—the cost of extracting the tooth. Not that the tooth wasn't still in his jaw, sound, undamaged and still efficient. But there is a certain wear and tear in getting angry and the canner ought to pay. Having shot this arrow into the air the young man felt more at peace with himself and forgot it.

But along came an investigator who asked embarrassing questions, so the young man took the easy way out and said he

wasn't the one concerned—it was his father, who lived with him, but who wasn't at home. The investigator stuck to his job and called later. This time the young man's wife had to face the questions and, being a real help-mate, enlarged on the details as to how her father-in-law lost his tooth. It was a well-told story, but the investigator still wasn't satisfied. He called again, found nobody at home, but discovered where the parents of the young man's wife lived, and called there, finding her visiting her mother.

Somehow a change of heart had come about and she decided it was time to tell the truth. She had tried to convince her husband, she said, that he should see the investigator and tell him all about it, but he refused.

Being still on the job, the investigator did see the young man the next morning at his office and the young man signed a statement that he actually did bite on a stone, but that he didn't break his tooth and he didn't have it extracted, and the tooth didn't bother him at all.

What happened behind the scenes can well be imagined by the statement that the young man's wife made after telling the investigator the truth, for she remarked, "I suppose he'll want to wring my neck when he finds I talked about it."

The young man acknowledged that he had written the letter without thinking that the claim would be investigated and that when the investigator first spoke to him he became alarmed, fearing that the investigator would ask to look at his tooth, and that was the cause of all the evasions.

MORAL. It pays to investigate.

Bias vs. the Canning Business

In the March issue of the "Nation's Business," published by the United States Chamber of Commerce, Harry Botsford discusses the effect of bias on business and as an example cites the canning industry.

"One of the very best Hymns of Hate ever sung," he writes, "was the duet warbled by Bias and Prejudice over tinned products. The hymn contained several hundred odd verses and the public listened to the discord and vowed it was sweet and charming melody. The matter centered around the general hazards attached to the business of consuming any foodstuffs preserved in tin cans. It was said that such foods were exceedingly dangerous, reeking in germs, acids and queer and unusual poisons. It was rumored that the foods that were canned were those which were almost a total loss due to spoilage. 'Embalming

fluids' were used in canned meats, acids were freely used in the preserving of vegetables and fruits, and artificial coloring was always used. It was hinted—yes, even stated as an undeniable fact—that the canner employed people suffering from unpleasant diseases and that the canning process was carried out in surroundings that were far from sanitary.

"It became a point of pride for a housewife to say that not one can of tinned goods ever came into her house from one year's end to another. Hardened trenchermen paled at the sound of a can opener cleaving its way through a can.

"In the meantime surplus crops of a perishable nature just went to waste. Growers dumped their crops. The American table in winter presented a menu of potatoes, meat and bread and lacking in fruit or vegetables. Bias and Prejudice reared back on their heels and bellowed in hearty and obscene mirth.

"Then the canners began to advertise. People were invited to visit their plants, and skeptical housewives accepted the invitations and discovered, to their utter surprise, that the process of canning was a delicate and highly scientific business carried out under the best of sanitary conditions, and that only the best grades of meats, fruits and vegetables were being canned. They discovered, to their shocked surprise, that the canners were better housewives than they were, and they found the workers wearing clean white uniforms. Tentatively they sampled the canned products. They discovered that the canners knew not a little about flavor and how to preserve. As a matter of fact they found that the canned products were superior to anything they ever put down in glass.

"Then came the matter of cost, and it was here that the twins, Bias and Prejudice, got in some heavy licks and a few blows below the belt. But the housewife has a lot of native shrewdness. It didn't take her very long to discover that when she canned her own fruit and vegetables she had to figure on first cost, on wastage, on time spent, on materials bought from the grocery store, on cost of glass cans, of can rubbers, of fuel used in cooking. In the final analysis she found that the canner who put on the market several hundred thousand or odd millions of cans of goods could do so in a more economical manner than the housewife who puts up a dozen cans or so. And so it was that Bias and Prejudice were on the receiving end of another knockout blow.

"Today millions are invested in the canning industry. Hundreds of thousands of people are employed in various phases of

the work—tin mines are busy; thousands of acres hitherto unproductive are producing; surplus crops are no longer simply wasted. All of which are subjects that Bias and Prejudice contemplate moodily."

Retail Prices of Food in February

The retail food index issued by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows for February 15, 1927, a decrease of 2 per cent in prices since January 15, 1927; a decrease of nearly 3½ per cent since February 15, 1926; and an increase of a little more than 61 per cent since February 15, 1913.

Rate Case Dismissed

The Interstate Commerce Commission has announced its dismissal of the proceedings in Docket 18816 (Osseo Canning Co. vs. Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha Railway Co.) for want of prosecution.

Norwegian Method of Canning Fish-Balls

Fish-balls or fish-pudding is one of the minor products of the Norwegian fish canning industry for which there seems to be a growing demand, reports the American Consul at Stavanger to the U. S. Department of Commerce, but a practical difficulty in marketing this product has been experienced by the packers. The canned product has a tendency to deteriorate in quality and in numerous cases claims are received from dealers for spoiled goods.

Fish-balls, as the name indicates, are made of the flesh of haddock, cod or pollock, mixed with milk, potato flour, salt and seasoning and cut into suitable sized pieces; fish-pudding is the term used for larger pieces or slabs of the same material; the balls or slabs are boiled and packed with a broth or boullion made from fish bones.

It has long been known that fish products packed with tomato sauce also tend to rapidly deteriorate if packed in cans which have not previously been varnished on the inside with an acid resisting varnish; recent experiments indicate that a similar varnish is most effective for fish-balls and one of the leading cannerymen of the district is said to have made extensive experiments in varnishing his fish-ball cans and that as a result he is now preparing to pack his entire output of this product in cans that have been varnished on the inside.

Cherries in Brine From Italy

According to declared export returns from the American Consulate at Naples there was a notable increase in the shipments of cherries in brine from Italy to the United States in 1926. The quantity exported in 1926 was 8,393,000 pounds valued at \$855,000, while in 1925 the exports were 4,671,000 pounds valued at \$413,000.

Porto Rico's Canned Grapefruit Exports

During the fiscal year 1925-26 exports of canned grapefruit from Porto Rico to the United States totaled 6,348,020 pounds valued at \$605,666. This amount is not quite double the shipments made in the preceding year. Exports from Porto Rico to foreign countries in 1925-26 amounted to only 57,542 pounds valued at \$7,585.

Car Loadings

A total of 994,931 cars were loaded with revenue freight during the week ended March 5, which was an increase of 29,922 cars over the corresponding week last year and of 62,887 cars over the corresponding week in 1925. The total for the week of March 5 was also an increase of 71,082 cars above the preceding week this year, when freight traffic was somewhat reduced owing to the observance of Washington's birthday.

Cuban Customs Regulations

According to the modified shipping requirements for merchandise entering Cuba, customs officials are instructed not to accept invoices covering goods dutiable on an ad valorem basis when they do not fulfill the requirements established by this decree, unless bond is deposited by the importer to guarantee presentation of the documents in the proper form in accordance with Article 104 of the customs regulations. It is noted that the Cuban customs law considers the value of the goods for the assessment of ad valorem duties as the current wholesale price at the time of exportation in the principal markets of the country of origin, including in the value the cost of the cases, wrapping, crating, boxing, and all other covers of any kind necessary to prepare the merchandise for shipment to Cuba, and railroad freight charges from the interior to the port of embarkation, as well as cartage charges, strapping, and commission.